

FCC 12-152

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking)	
18 FCC Rcd 13187, 13188 ¶1 (2003))	ET Docket No. 03-137
)	
And)	
)	
Service Rules for the Advanced Wireless Services)	WT Docket No. 12-357
H Block---Implementing Section 6401 of the)	
Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of)	
2012 Related to the 1915-1920 MHz and)	
1995-2000 MHz Bands ¶53 footnote 95)	

To: Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Comment Filed by: Linda Kurtz
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February 3, 2013

AFFIDAVIT OF LINDA KURTZ

State of Michigan]

Washtenaw County]

I, Linda Kurtz, attest that the statements below are true to the best of my knowledge.

Comment round for ET Docket No. 03-137 and WT Docket No. 12-357.

1. My name is Linda Kurtz. My address is 2150 Foss St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.
2. I am a massage therapist and editor.
3. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Cynthia Edwards, who submitted testimony in Michigan Public Service Commission Case U-17053.

4. Ms. Edwards has suffered health consequences as a result of living and working in a city with wireless smart meters.

QUALIFICATIONS OF Cynthia Edwards

1 **Q. Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth,**
2 **and nothing but the truth?**

3 **A. I do.**

4 **Q. Please state your name, address and contact information.**

5 **A. Cynthia Edwards. 1985 Upland Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. 734-761-2036**

6 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

7 **A. That of Intervenor Cynthia Edwards.**

8 **Q. What are your qualifications to testify?**

9 **A. I take my electric service from Detroit Edison. I have been affected by the smart meter**
10 **installation in the community in terms of my health**

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF Cynthia EDwards

1 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

2 A. To provide information that may help the Commission in determining whether smart and
3 digital meters create certain kinds of economic, medical, social, or other harm or hardship,
4 as outlined in Intervenor Cynthia Edwards Petition for Intervention, to some or all persons
5 such that Detroit Edison and the Commission must not require those who are or who are
6 likely to be so harmed to have a smart or digital meter placed on their home or place of
7 business or to be otherwise deprived of rights and liberties, as outlined in Intervenor
8 Edwards Petition for Intervention, by the deployment of the advanced metering
9 infrastructure, smart meters, or digital meters, and, in the alternative, that such persons
10 must be able to avoid such harm to their person and property without being charged a fee.

11 **Q. How long have you lived at your current residence?**

12 A. March 31,2012.

13 **Q. What do you do for a living?**

14 A. I have worked at Recreational Equipment Inc. since 2008. I also have been a landscape
15 gardener for 35 years, and am a receptionist at Jessica's Apothecary and Spa

16 **Q. Do you have a smart meter on your home?**

17 A. No

18 **Q. When as the first time you learned about smart meters?**

19 A. I saw a magazine article sometime in 2011 talking about improving the electric grid which
20 mentioned smart meters, and also talked about how they were going to save energy and
21 reduce energy consumption, of which I am very in favor of.

22 **Q. So prior to reading this article, you knew nothing about smart meters?**

23 A. No.

24 **q. Did you have any concerns about smart meters at that time?**

25 A. No. They seemed like a great idea.

26 **Q. Why did you become concerned about smart meters?**

27 A. I received an email from a friend with information saying there were health problems
28 associated with smart meters and there were issues that the electric companies weren't
29 addressing, but I didn't pursue looking into it. I forgot about it until I received a letter from
30 DTE saying a smart meter was going to be installed on my house within a few weeks.
31 Because I had heard more negative information in the meantime, and I was becoming
32 concerned, I attended a talk at a bookstore in Ann Arbor a few weeks later, which presented

1 information on the health impact of smart meters and radio frequencies. I became very
2 concerned for my health and decided to learn more.

3 **Q. What did you do then?**

4 A. I called DTE to say I didn't want a smart meter and had a 45 min argument on the phone
5 with a customer service person. The assured me there were no problems with the meters
6 and said there was nothing I could do to stop the installation even if my doctor said I
7 shouldn't have one because of my health issues. I then sent a certified letter to DTE saying
8 not to install a smart meter on my house because I had health issues that it would
9 negatively impact and locked my meter. I then called a Mrs. Curtis at DTE and discussed
10 the situation. She told me she would put me on an "opt-out" list, but that the details of that
11 were yet to be decided. This was in mid-late June.

12 **Q. What are the health issues you refer to?**

13 A. I have a compromised immune system and digestive system, an irregular heartbeat, and
14 have had fatigue and sleep issues. I have hypothyroidism which I take medication for. I
15 have worked hard and at great expense for many years to build my health and strength so
16 that I can function normally in the world. My doctor said it would not be safe for me to
17 have a smart meter on my house. She also told me to limit my exposure to all radio
18 frequency devices.

19 **Q. Have you noticed any effects from smart meters?**

20 A. When I go into buildings with smart meters I experience heart palpitations, tightness in my
21 chest and head, headaches, mental confusion, my ears ring at a very high level

22 **Q. How do you know it is smart meters and not something else?**

23 A. Before the installations of smart meters in Ann Arbor, my health symptoms were minor and
24 under control. I was doing hard physical labor without problems. Late this spring I started
25 having an increase in heart issues, increased fatigue, and cognitive issues with memory and
26 fuzzy thinking at work. And I started having headaches, which I rarely ever had. This was
27 all before I knew anything about smart meters and their impact. My symptoms have
28 increased steadily since then from exposure outside of my house. So I am extremely
29 worried about a smart meter being installed on my house and these symptoms becoming
30 worse. From what I have researched, the physical impact is cumulative and does not just go
31 away, but continues to degrade health.

32 **Q. Have you had sensitivity to any other electrical or wireless devices other than smart
33 meters?**

34 A. I have always been negatively impacted by fluorescent lights, which cause me to feel
35 fatigued. With what I have learned about radio frequencies I think I am impacted by radio
36 phones and just never made the connection to what I was experiencing.

Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your ability to work and earn a living? If the answer is yes, describe how.

A. Not in a big way yet. I do notice I am a lot more tired now that there are smart meters in my work place and virtually everywhere I go. I have had to call in sick several times since spring with terrible headaches as well. If my symptoms increase I could be at risk of losing my job and not having the energy to do physical labor.

Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your ability to interact socially with others? If the answer is yes, describe how.

A. Somewhat. I find I don't enjoy going out any more because I am feeling the impact of the meters and just don't want to be exposing myself to the damage it is doing.

Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your ability to access public services, such as the public library, government offices? If the answer is yes, describe how.

A. Yes. I can't stay in the library for very long as my heart starts acting up and my head gets tight , sometimes I get a headache, and my thinking gets fuzzy.

Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your ability to freely assemble outside? If the answer is yes, describe how.

A. No.

Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your ability to access religious or spiritual services? If the answer is yes, describe how.

A. Yes, when I go to a place with a smart meter because of the physical impact. I don't want to be there because I don't feel well.

Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your ability to freely access health services? If the answer is yes, describe how.

A. I notice the impact but I go anyhow, because what else can I do?

Q. DTE has asked the Commission for approval of a plan that would not allow anyone to keep their analog meter. Instead, those choosing to opt out of smart meter installation, if an opt-out is instituted, will be forced to take a 3-watt digital meter on their house. Have you had experience with the 3-watt digital meter?

A. Yes.

Q. What was that experience like?

A. I was recently in a house with the 3-watt digital meter. After I had been there a while my heart began pounding, my head felt buzzy and very tight, and my ears were ringing very loudly. I took my blood pressure and it was 145 over 75. Because I have chronically low blood pressure (often less than 100) this was quite alarming. , The woman who lives there

1 had also been experiencing severe problems which included increased blood pressure. If
2 the same meter was installed on my house I would be in big trouble.

3 Q. Do you have anything else to say regarding smart meters?

4 A Yes. I don't want to have to pay for something that is endangering my health. If these meters
5 have to be installed then I expect DTE to install mitigation devices to protect me from the
6 negative impacts. If I'm to have no choice then DTE has to bear the cost of protecting me.

1 Respectfully submitted,

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